

REMARKS:

REMARKS REGARDING CLAIMS AMENDMENTS:

Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2 – 8 amended to depend from previously allowed claim 10. Since claims 2 – 8 now depend from an allowed claim, they are also in condition for allowance. Request is respectfully made for entry of new claims 13 – 17 that are also believed to be allowable.

The above changes place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2 – 8, allowed claims 10 – 12 and new claims 13 – 17 are currently pending in the present invention.

IN RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION:

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1 – 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jirousek et al. (US 4,317,498) in view of Kingston (US 6,090,006) and Forster (US 5,813,938).

Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2 – 8 amended to depend from allowed claim 10 to overcome rejection for obviousness over Jirousek et al. in view of Kingston and Forster. Amendment of claims 2 – 8 places them in condition for allowance. Request is made for reconsideration and notification of allowance of claims 2 - 8.

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to address all the points included in the Office Action and submits that amendment of claims 2 - 8 places the application in condition for allowance. Request is respectfully made that the rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be reconsidered and withdrawn and that the Examiner indicate the allowance of all pending claims, including claims 2 – 8, allowed claims 10 – 12 and new claims 13 – 17, in the next paper from the Office.

Serial No.: 10/709,480
Confirmation No.: 1683
Applicant: KINGSTON, Timothy
Atty. Ref.: 07589.0164.PCUS00

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Order No. 07589.0164.PCUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner should directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy W. Druce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" and last name "Druce" clearly distinguishable.

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